(b) what measures are proposed to be taken, not only to meet the present crisis, but also to ensure uninterrupted supply of diesel and petroleum even in the event of breakdown in any section of the system; and

(c) whether Government would consider maintaining a stock for at least a period of one month, so that any such breakdown in the supply system does not affect the normal availability of diesel in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The Northern Region States of Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh have been facing some shortage of petrol and diesel.

The shortage is due to the increased requirements of the agricultural sector for diesel in the months of April and May, emergency shut-down of some units of Mathura Refinery and import constraints.

(b) The following steps have been taken to tide over the situation:-

(1) Rescue supplies were arranged from Vizag, Kandla and Koyali.

(2) Aditional tank wagon loadings from Budge-Budge to East Uttar Pradesh locations were arranged.

(3) 20 TMT additional crude oil has been allotted to the Barauni Refinery and surplus MS from the Coachin Refinery was moved to the Northern Region.

(4) Crude processing at the maximum level has been planned at the Mathura Refinery during May and June, 1995.

(5) The Ministry of Surface Transport has been requested to provide priority berthing to POL tankers at Kandla.

(6) The Railways have been requested to increase tank wagon loadings at Kandla and Budge-Budge.

(7) The oil companies have been directed to enhance MS/HSD bridging to the Northern Region from Kandla, Bombay and Budge-Budge.

(c) The Government have decided to establish a strategic reserve of 45 days of petroleum products for the country through the creation of additional storage capacity in the refineries, supply locations and major consumption areas. This strategic reserve would be used as and when necessary to meet contingencies and emergency situations.

Distribution points for LPG/Kerosene

7160. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how Government propose to implement their policy of having more distribution points for LPG and Kerosene in rural areas in the country;

(b) what is the percentage of LPG distribution between rural and urban areas, State-wise; and

(c) how many rural centres have been identified for LPG distribution in Karnataka and how many of them are serviced now, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) 202 SKO-LDO (Kerosene) dealerships have been included in the SKO-LDO Marketing Plan 1989—93 for Block and Taluka Headquarters all over the country. So far LPG distributorships have not been opened in rural areas due to product constraints and low potential in the rural areas. However, keeping in view the expected increase of LPG in the coming years, it has been decided to include adjoining villages also for working out the viability of LPG distributorships for smaller towns. In cases of non-viable distributorships in the urban areas, their jurisdiction and area of operation is also extended to nearby rural areas.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Following locations have been proposed in the LPG Marketing Plan 1994-95 for Karnataka in accordance with the existing policy;

	Location	District
1.	Mudalgi	Belgaum
2.	Birur	Chikmaglur
3.	Basavana Bagevadi	Bijapur
4.	Hangal	Dharwad
5.	Muddebihal	Bijapur
6.	Talikota	Bijapur
7.	Malur	Kolar
8.	Rajanagara	Mysore

Crudge Oil Production

7161. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set for production of crude oil, both on-shore and off-shore separately during the last four years and the achievements made against those targets;

(b) the reasons for low production of crude oil in recent years; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to increase crude oil production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The targets for crude oil for both onshore and offshore and achievements made against them are given below:—

		Onshore	Offshore
1991-92	Target	12.760	19.040
	Achievement	11.384	18.961
1992-93	Target	13.396	15.068
	Achievement	11.194	15.756
1993-94	Target	11.865	15.305
	Achievement	11.514	15.512
1994-95	Target	12.336	19.963
	Achievement	11.779	20.458

(b) The broad reasons for low production of crude oil are:—

(i) Unexpected reservoir behaviour in some of the fields of Western region;

(ii) Unfavourable environmental conditions in the North Eastern region;

(iii) Rectificatory measures in Bombay High;

(iv) Delay/slippage in projects due to certain factors like resource crunch, foreign exchange constraints.

(v) Frequent power shut-down in the Eastern region and the Western region.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to increase crude oil production are:—

(i) Extension of some enhanced oil recovery schemes from pilot scale to full scale field application.

(ii) Implementation of certain specialised technologies such as extending reach drilling, horizontal and drain hole drilling.

(iii) Obtaining services of international experts wherever considered necessary.

(iv) Implementation of new projects/ schemes.

(v) Drilling of development and infill wells and putting them on production in quickest possible period.

(vi) Maintenance of reservoir health by appropriate pressure maintenance methods, work-over jobs and optimisation of production.

(vii) Offering some medium-small sized fields to JVC/private parties by Government.

LPG Agencies in Rajasthan

7162. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies/petrol retail cutlets in Rajasthan whose licences have been cancelled during the last two years;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of those agencies against whom investigations are still going on;

(d) the number of agencies whose licences have been renewed; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to open more LPG agencies/Petrol retail outlets for educated unemployed/war widows or retired Government/defence services personnel in Rajasthan during 1995-96; if so, the details thereof?